

LIGHT-BEAR

THIRD SERIES, VOL. VI., No. 23.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, JUNE 19, E. M. 302. [C. B. 1902.]

WHOLE No. 922

THE LESSON OF OUR MISTAKES.

Could we recall the bitter words that blight our yesterdays And blot out all their influence from life's diverging ways,

Could we undo the errors and the wrong we may have done Through weakness or through ignorance or passion's stress

The memories that torture us would not be ours today And peace would look into our eyes and fold her wings and stay.

But though the past companions us with these reproaches, need Tomorrow and today be sown with such unholy seed?

Ah no. Though these reproaches speak our weakness and our shame,

Let them become the lash, the spur unto a noble aim. -Carrie Renfrew, in "Woman's Tribune."

sile pooms spatered Hammer Sparks.

Justice knows no compromise.

There is no life without liberty.

The red sun of discontent never sets.

A republic is another name for a robpublic.

The promises of capital are the kisses of Judas.

Love forgets great wrongs, hate remembers little ones.

Live to learn, but only that you may thus learn how to live.

What a spectacle when slaves lift their chains swearing they

Samar will not hear the Declaration of Independence read this Fourth of July.

The sphere of woman is the sphere of humanity, not a narrow and restricted sphere.

Coronations come high, but Nero scents the time when the people must be given a spectacle.

Another judge, Kavanaugh, has condemned the verdict of a jury. Let us have done with jury trials.

Liberty is not a gift from the powerful to the weak, it is a right wrested from those who would enslave us.

The old adage has it "Think twice before you speak once." The new adage, for fools is, "Learn to think before you speak."

There is nothing like two busybodies and a little time to waste to spoil a reputation and darken the fairest of fames

Some men would need a light to find the sun, and then they would lose it; others come to it at last after leagues and leagues of blackest night.

"Love your enemies," must have been addressed to the capitalists, who love the people, their enemies, for what they the devil to pay "-und the answer as " car med lo tuo teg us

A man who does not stand for free speech is not only a slave, but a fool, for in denying the right to others he is paving the way for others to deny it to him.

The anthracite miners were receiving about 80 cents per day, while the coal trust was putting the price of coal still higher; miners are mere machines; ch, Mr. Magnate?

Lovers of real liberty did not honor the Boers for the avowed object of their fine struggle against the English, the right to choose their masters, but for their unavowed object, an innate hatred of tyranny.

The two Washington women who are to be tried for trying to circulate the truth have now a practical opportunity to reflect upon the glorious privilege of being Americans. We are the freest of all peoples indeed!

Who tells the truth about this world would better prepare himself for the next without delay, for the more it is the truth and the more he tells it, the greater danger is he in of making a close friend of a hempen rope.

Let the Democrat and Republican barkers do their best. which is their very worst, to make the day night and the night day; the truth of the matter is that they teach that the strongest should rule in this world; that might is right.

Religion is a pact with a god to eternally praise him and tell him how great and grand he is, in return for the privilege of doing evil as much as you will and repenting of it at the last moment. The Fathers were most astute men and cunning.

The anti-anarchy bill now before the House provides that no anarchist shall be allowed to take out naturalization papers. This is the richest joke known resulting from the presumption and crass ignorance of those who make our laws. Naturalization for anarchists, indeed!

The meat trust was forced to arbitrate because the people of Chicago were plainly with the striking teamsters. Had the teamsters stood alone and without the people to speak for them, there would have been no arbitration. If the people only knew their power the meat trust would die.

The "Man on Horseback" is going to lay aside the cares of state for a brief period, so rumor has it, and undertake a bear hunt. It reminds us of the "broncho buster" who became an employer of large numbers of men and was a "man buster" for awhile, and then returned to his first love with the remark, "It isn't exciting enough; I want to twist something."

An agitation looking to the unification of divorce laws throughout the United States is under way, and soon we may expect something to happen: This is as it should be; morality ought not to vary in crossing state lines, and legislators should make up their minds as to what they will have to be moral and then change the statutes quickly and quietly. It would not do to let the people know how things have stood; they might begin IRONICUS. as supposes in

Platonic Love.

What is Platonic love? The question has often been asked and has received many inconsistent answers, most of them, evidently by persons who had not read Plato, or were determined to tell what they thought, not what he thought. Among such answers I should be disposed to include the alleged definition given by the last edition of the Standard Dictionary. If I try to tell what Platonic love is, my statement will possess at least these advantages, that I have read Plato; that I have read the two dialogues in which he principally treats of love (the Symposium and the Phædrus) quite recently; and that I will not read anything into Plato, but say only what I can prove by Plato.

The most fundamental and characteristic of Plato's doctrines is the divine character of reason. For while other philosophers use the same language vaguely, Plato alone is precise about it. Assuming, as he always does, not that the gods of his country are quite correctly reported by tradition, but that tradition is right in asserting the existence of a higher or divine nature, he argues, with great variety of illustration, that, for example, this divine nature is admitted to be wisdom. But by reason only, man becomes wise. Again the divine nature is immortal. But the truths revealed by pure reason, as, to use his favorite case, those of mathematics, are eternal; while all those particalar things whence reason evolves those abstract ideas with which she is conversant are transitory. So too, the gods are creators of the universe; but it is by reason man becomes a creator. Thus, in all ways, reason appears that by which man becomes like God; it is the chief good; it is the life of the soul: and if we inquire after its opposite, that is easily found. The life of the flesh, with desires which bring only disappointment or satiety, is the chief evil of which man is capable, and by which he becomes like the brutes which perish. It might be, and often has been, inferred that Plato's conception of love must needs be ascetic-love without desire, love which is satisfied with the contemplation of material beauty, with possession of mental and spiritual beauty (conversation), and creation of beauty (art), is the right kind, and any other the wrong. But this is one of the errors into which people fall who have not read Plato. Plato was far too much of a Greek to be an ascetic. With admirable common-sense, he recognizes at once that the immediate effect of beauty is to excite desire. And though desire, not regulated by reason, ends only in misery, desire has a function which it is the business of reason to prescribe. As man, if he were destitute of bodily senses could never acquire, or regain (for according to Plato they are innate), those abstract ideas which reason disposes; so, if the flesh itself did not teach him that beauty is desirable, he would never rise to the ideal beauty and the ideal good. Now desire is evidently regulated by reason when it acts after the fashion of reason. But we remember reason tends to wisdom; therefore desire must be curbed when it tends to folly. Neither intemperance, nor insane possession with a single object, nor mischievous indulgence of any kind. but above all not violence and selfishness, can have any place in the Platonic idea of love.

> "Love surfeits not; lust like a glutton dies: Love is all truth; lust full of forged lies."

Again reason is creative. Desire, then, ought to result in something, of which the simplest commonest mode is propagation. But Plato was too much of a philosopher not to set other things above that; and he triumphantly asks whether the artist, the poet, the thinker, inspired by Love, which the world might call unfortunate, have not more beautiful and hopeful children than if they had married and quenched the divine fire in that sort of satisfaction which can only be ephemeral. Finally, reason is the immortal part of man. Desire, therefore, fulfils its highest and most rational function when it leads the soul from the beauty of individuals to the beauty of universal truth right-copsness and the creative soul. All which may involve very severe mortification of desire; but does not at all exclude desire, —on the contractor turn supposes it.

JUNGS

It will be seen that Plato was in no small measure the founder of Christianity. At the time of Jesus, such ideas as the sacramental character of sexual love; the immortality of the soul; the Beatific Vision of perfect truth and holiness, constituting the happiness of heaven; had long been widely diffused among the partially Hellenized peoples of the east, in philosophies which, though very often corrupt and degenerate, were essentially Platonic, because no such spiritualism as this, so familiar to Christians, can, as a whole, be traced further back than Plato.

One of the greatest and most common mistakes is to suppose that Piatonic love is a peculiar kind, allowable between those who are not married, and different from what the ceremony of marriage sanctions. In this lies the whole point of Byron's apostrophe

"Oh Plato, Plato! you have paved the way, With your confounded fantasies, to more Immoral conduct, through the fancied sway Your system gives o'er the controlless core Of human hearts, than the combined array Of poets and romancers. You're a bore, A charlatan, a coxcomb; and have been At best no better than a go-bet ween."

But Plato is nothing of the sort, for be is perfectly candid. Plato was a professed varietist. Intrigues and adultery, as the world goes, he would certainly have condemned, for part of those manifestations of desire which are mischievous and foolish. But in his Republic, the philosophers, who are to be the dominant class, include both sexes, and have no such institution as marriage. It was like nocelm reasoner as Plato not to see that the exclusive love professed by our Swedenborgians and affinityhunters, is, if genuine and permanent, very rare; if real, but subject to change, a perfect specimen of that unbridled passion which he held so foolish; if permanent, but affected, then a fraud. It is on mere grounds of social utility and convenience, not for the good of the soul, that he sanctions marriage among the military and commercial, but not the philosophic order. Thus, in realization of Platonic love, there is simply no question of being married or not married. No philosopher, male or female, will indulge passion without discretion; all are equally free to indulge it at (mutual) discretion.

And, to clinch the nail, I may observe that Plato's ideal commonwealth is not a mere creation, like Aristophanes, Nephelococcygia, or Dean Swift's Laputa; but an abstraction from actually existing tendencies. The school to which Plato belonged had a very fair general notion of Induction. Their defect in this respect as compared with Bacon's disciples, is chiefly that they did not appreciate the possibilities of experiment. Plato saw that in the Greek cities, his native Athens especially, marriage was mostly a prudential arrangement. The philosophers, in fact, disdained it. Their associations were with women like Aspasia, of cultivated minds, and exempt from the restraints of ordinary society. And, notwithstanding great prejudice, it was men like Pericles and women like Aspasia who ruled. Plato's Republic is an idealized Athens.

I have by no means exhausted the subject, though I have tried to give some idea what Platonic love really means. Believers in "elective affinity" might get some new light by reading the original view of it given by Aristophanes, as reported by Plato, in the Symposium. Nor is the peculiar love of Grecian men by any means to be ignored, though it is a most difficult matter to treat or even to rightly understand in our age and country. No better advice can be given any one who finds this essay at all interesting, than to read Plato's Dialogues, of which excellent translations are in every city library; particularly the Symposium, the Phædrus, the Republic, and those relating to Socrates' last days (the Apology, the Crito, and the Phædo).

I think R. B. Kerr will find most of those points be makes in Lucifer 917, are met by my reply (918) to his article "Natural Law in the Social World" 914. The governmental argument is mainly a prophecy. "If we have no government, there will be the devil to pay"—and the answer is "careful (not biased and

haphazard) application of observation and experiment, shows that the more government you have, the more devil." He has, however, in 917, some other arguments, new only by being sufficiently old. "All nations went through the age of voluntary associations, and all nations rushed into the arms of despotism to escape from voluntaryism." When was the age of voluntary association? Not within that of record. The clan (called in Ireland sept, in Greece gens, in Tartary horde, in ancient Rome sodales) does, indeed, appear to be everywhere the primitive type of association; and it may have begun as voluntary. But "the McDonalds and the Campbells, the Scotts and the Kerrs," were certainly not voluntary associations when we begin to know something about them. In the first article in which Mr. Kerr refers to these organizations, he states, what is unquestionably true, that secession from them would have been dealt with substantially as secession from our great and glorious Nation (with a big N.) was. They were simply little nations, whose little governments were sustained by the national feeling of patriotism, even after a "higher power" had stamped on them at Culloden, Glencoe, etc. It was just the same in Ireland. To this day, an O'Donnell can come "coshering" among the peasants of his sept, notwithstanding severe laws against this practice, of later date than the battle of the Boyne and the capitulation of Limerick. The Californian vigilance committees were easily shaken when they had served their purpose, not because the state and federal governments were ready to play Culloden and Glencoe with them-these governments cannot do that with southern vigilance committees, notwithstanding Appomatox-but because people in our time are getting used to voluntary association, and getting free from the superstition which makes it involuntary. And progress along that line is the measure of civilization. The more backward any people are, the more governed; because the stronger is their inclination both to govern when they can and to sustain a government when they cannot make one.

If Mr. Kerr will ask himself how Senator Clarke comes to own all that copper in the earth, he may begin to see that when no man is enabled by government to hold land out of use, all the evils of natural monopoly will cure themselves.

C. F. Hunt, when writing under the name of Zeno, taught me a lesson, for which I am obliged to him. The lesson was never to attempt answering an opponent who talks for the sake of talking. I am particularly unlikely to forget this time, because I do not think even those many readers of Lucifer who suppose bacteriology and anti-toxin to be anachronisms, instead of the very latest wrinkles, can read his reply to me without seeing that it contradicts itself.

While Congress, the New York legislature, etc., are in the business of anarchy-crushing, they will have to suppress a good deal of literature not hitherto reckoned Anarchistic. The moral of that song, "Jeannette and Jeannot"-

"Let them who make the quarrels Be the only ones to fight"—

is just exactly what killed McKinley.

I have not the gift of putting an argument into a fable, as R. B. Kerr has. Neither has Ironicus, But I know something about history—not altogether of the distant past,—snd will relate a chapter from the annals of Asses. As lately as 1884, there were asses (of the biped variety) in Montreal. I am indeed far from saying that the breed is extinct there yet. But in that year over three thousand died of small-pox. Two-thirds of them were young asses. A reasoner of Ironicus' type had been around persuading the old asses that small-pox had about died out of itself; that "pure water, pure food, sanitary living places, healthful habits, and general cleanliness, would render cures superfluous;" also that "it was a doubtful advantage to exchange one disease for another." To be sure they were also told (by the Bacyclopedia Brittanica) that, before vaccination, the great majority of deaths from small-pox were among children, and now only a very small minority. But what of that? All asses agree that statistics are "notoriously unreliable." It about history-not altogether of the distant past,-and will

is no longer a "sanitary habit" to talk anti-vaccination in Montreal. Freuch asses have a well known use for lamp posts; and "progressive hygienists" are not quite sincere in thinking a sudden death preferable to a living one. An ass is "not especially gifted mentally," it is true. But he can learn something by experience. One who cannot do that, is a crank, not a plain improveable ass.

It is to be regretted the author of that funny paragraph in "Life" did not state where the community is in which the people were surprised at seeing a doctor come to settle among them, because no one was ever sick there. If I knew of such a place, even in the Philippine Islands, I would certainly go to it. But I ear it is the same community so many wind up by going to in the sloppy variety of socialistic novels.

C. L. JAMES. sloppy variety of socialistic novels.

Sex and Sin.

Woman is the cause of three fourths of the crimes committed in America. So said Bishop Spalding, of Peoria, in a sermon a few weeks ago. This sermon has aroused a great deal of comment, criticism, and indignation. Bishop Spalding's statement is, however, a sign of progress. It has not been so many years since the leaders of religious thought attributed to woman all the crime and misery in the world, as when Tertullian exclaimed, "Woman, thou oughtest always to walk in mourning and rags, thine eyes filled with the tears of repentance, to make men forget thou hast been the destruction of the race!" Now that our responsibility has dwindled down to only threefourths, we should be properly grateful. Among the many editorials on Bishop Spalding's speech, which I have read, the following from the Minneapolis "Tribune" seems to me one of the broadest and fairest:

"Bishop Spalding's impressions are evidently gained largely from the confessional and from the intimate observation of the details of family and social life permitted to a priest of his church. Physicians who, in a way, often serve as father confessors to the unfortunate, draw facts from their own experience which would lead to a similar conclusion. But in saying that women are the source of a large percentage of the crime we would not understand either the priest or the physician as saying that the women were culpably so. Eve may have had no intention of tempting Adam to sin. Manlike, he may have followed the lure of her beauty and her charm on his own responsibility, and resolved to tread the path of disobedience in her

company, though it led to death.

"The philosophic statement of the broad truth would be that the sex motive is at the bottom of seventy-five per cent of the crime in the world. Next to alimentiveness, amativeness the crime in the world. Next to alimentiveness, amativeness is the strongest instinct of human nature. The race first seeks the means of continuing the individual existence, and next the means of continuing the species. Woman is at once the tempted and the temptress. The lawless passions of man wreak themselves on her, and she in her weakness protects herself with subtlety, oftentimes with deception. The consequences of common sin are more fearful to her than to the man, and she is taught from her childhood to protect her virtue at the sacrifice, if necessary, of other noble qualities—or that failing to do so she is utterly lost. Hence the reckless abandon of impure women. The boy, on the other hand, is taught that truth. women. The boy, on the other hand, is taught that truth, courage, honor are of more importance than bodily purity. As society is largely constituted, the man violates the law of purity lightly, but holds to his other standards of honor, while the woman who shares his sin is dragged to utter degradation. The man perhaps recovers his balance: finds his standards in The man perhaps recovers his balance; finds his standing in society not impaired, and leads a useful and honorable life, as worldly honors go. Thus the contrast between the two classes of sinners becomes accentuated to the disadvantage of the

of sinners becomes accentuated to the disadvantage of the woman and the advantage of the man.

"The scientist Lombroso accounts woman the immoral sex, because she has not the same standards of truth and honor and courage that men have. If she has not, it is the fault of her education and not of nature. Under existing standards she has not a fair chance in the world. But in spite of this a large pernot a fair chance in the world. But in spite of this a large per-centage of the sex rise to moral heights of which men are incap-able. Bishop Spalding's arraignment at first blush excites indignation; but when properly construed it is really more an arraignment of men and the false standards of education and morality, than of women as women. The fair sex may be the source of crime, through their attraction and fascination, with-out being themselves the responsible sinners. If the reader will keep this fact in view he (or she) will be able to appreciate the force of the bishop's observation without mentally accusing him of either false diagnosis or intentional alander."

Cucifer, the Cightbearer

M. HARMAN, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEEK AT 500 FULTON STREET, CHICAGO, ILL.

Terms: One year, \$1; six months, 50 cents; three months, 25 cents.

Entered at the Chicago Postoffice as Second-Class Mail Matter.

Eastern Representative, E. C. Walker, 344 W, 142d street, New York.

Lucifer-Its Meaning and Purpose.

LUCIPER—The planet Venus; so called from its brightness.—Webster's Dictionary.

LUCIFEROUS-Giving Light; affording light or the means of discovery.—Same.

LUCIFIC-Producing Light.-Same.

LUCIPORN-Having the form of Light. Same.

The name Lucifer means Light-Bringing or Light-Bearing, and the paper that has adopted this name stands for Light against Darkness—for Reason against Superstition—for Science against Tradition—for Investigation and Bullghtenment against Credulity and Ignorance—for Liberty against Slavery—for Justice against Privilege.

Current Comment.

Despite my recent resolve and promise to "be good" for the next few weeks, and to let others do the talking in Lucifer, I find the temptation to say a few words too strong to resist.

First, I want to add a little to my recent notice of Dr. Conger's book entitled, "Right Generation, the Key to the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth." I want to say, very briefly, that if any reader of Lucifer should infer, from what was said of it in No. 920, that I endorse without qualification the methods recommended by its author, my object would be much misunderstood. It is the general purpose or object of the book and the evident earnestness, sincerity and candor of the author, that I wished to commend, and not the methods, from some of which, such as state-regulation of marriage and reproduction, I most emphatically dissent.

Time was when I, too, advocated state supervision of the personal affairs of the individual citizen—for the reason that since society, or the collectivity, must care for its lunatics and its criminals it is but fair and right that it should be allowed to take cognizance of causes, and to prevent, as far as possible, the making of lunatics and criminals. Thus arguing I advocated state regulation of the manufacture and sale of intoxicants as beverages, believing the "drink habit" to be one of the chief causes of lunacy and of crime, and that the formation of this habit was mainly due to "free trade" in drinks that intoxicate.

The underlying fallacy of this line of reasoning, as I now see it, is the assumption that "the state" is a person; that organized society has rights and duties different from and superior to those of the individual units composing that society. In other words it is the old, old doctrine of the right of government of man by his fellow man, whether called divine right of kings and priests, or right of majorities to rule minorities, or of minorities (the best) to rule majorities—the worst, or less capable of governing themselves.

When once we admit the validity of this old-time doctrine of rulers and ruled the door is opened wide for the entrance of all the tyrannies, all the despotisms, all the outrages, ever perpetrated by the strong against the weak, whether of body or mind.

As I now see it, the only rational hope of real and permanent improvement and progress for the race is through the door opened by the trinity known as Liberty, Love, Wisdom, or through enlarging rather than contracting the domain of personal right, personal responsibility, and by elevating personal ideals through a broader, deeper, truer, more rational education of the young of both sexes.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Speaking of books I want to say to all who have sent us

books and pamphlets for review, that it is mainly owing to lack of energy—physical and mental—that so little space has been given to this department of Lucifer's work. The field is a very inviting one—so many excellent additions are being constantly made to the accumulated mass of reform literature. For this time I can notice only one of many that invite the attention of all seekers of the better way and the higher aims of life, in the ever present here and now:

A New Catechism, by M. M. Mangasarian, lecturer of Independent Religious Society of Chicago. In the preface the author says:

"The old Catechisms which were imposed upon us in our youth—when our intelligence could not defend itself against them—no longer command our respect. They have become mildewed with neglect. The times in which they were conceived and composed are dead—quite dead! A New Catechism to express the the thoughts of men and women and children living in these new times is needed. This is a modest effort in that direction."

The method of teaching important truths by question and answer is, to many, a very attractive one, and as an exponent of the newer and more rational views in regard to theology, science and ethics I know of no attempt that more nearly fills the bill of requirements than does this small but very comprehensive volume of 188 pages. Having attended two of Mr. Mangasarian's lectures I find him second to none, as I think, of the many able and progressive public teachers in this great center of the world's modern thought. The price of the book is fifty cents. Address the Open Court Pub. Co., of this City or this office.

LUCIFER AND ANARCHISM.

"The great weakness of Anarchism is not that it is utterly false but that it is a 'one horse' theory. Devotion to one idea has always been a defect of the second order of minds.

I am glad that the men of my generation are broader and deeper than their libertarian fathers, In America, and still more in Europe, sectarian Anarchism is already an old man's movement. Among men over seventy Anarchism has its demigods, like Tolstoi, Ibsen, Moses Harman."—R. B. Kerr in No. 921.

Whether Friend Kerr uses the word "demigod" in a complimentary or a disparaging sense is a little difficult to determine from reading the above. Demigod means a "half god;" what the other half may be, whether beast or human, cannot be told by a study of history bearing upon the subject. And if instead of only demigods Tolstoi, Ibsen and Harman had been called gods it would still be an open question—considering the character given to all gods, ancient and modern, by their believers and worshipers—whether we should take the epithet as one of honor or of dishoaor.

Emerson says, "when the half-gods go the gods arrive." Are we to infer from R. B. Kerr's application of the word that the three persons named belong to the older, narrower and shallower race of libertarians spoken of, and that when they are gone—as in the course of nature they soon will be—the real gods, "the broader, deeper libertarians," will take the place vacated by these three septuagenerians?

Few men, I fancy, in this age would not feel it a rare compliment to be placed third in a class in which Tolstoi and Ibsen are ranked first and second. But much as I may prize the supposed compliment I respectfully but firmly decline the honor, and would let it pass without further notice were it a personal question merely. But if Bro. Kerr, with his wonderful faculty of clear discrimination; with his rare ability to classify, assort, and "put things in the right boxes"—if Robert B. Kerr, with his dozen or more years acquaintance with Lucifer and its work, can so misunderstand the position of its editor as these and other quoted lines indicate, then certainly there is need for continual re-statement of the aims, the purposes, for the atlainment of which we have so long been asking the co-operation of thinking minds every where.

Once more, then, let it be clearly understood that I do not object to the term Anarchism per se—of itself—but, with both hands and both feet I protest against being classed as a "one

horse" Anarchist, a "one idea" Anarchist, as Mr. Kerr has done in his article, and as nearly every one else does when applying that term. While freely admitting that there was a time when I welcomed this label I must remind Bro. Kerr that it was before I learned the very important lesson that there are nearly as many kinds of Anarchists as there are people calling themselves by that name. Hence to submit to wearing the Anarchist collar involves the perpetual necessity of explaining just what I mean by Anarchism and what I do not mean.

It has been freely charged, by the way, that the name Lucifer is open to the same objection, and that there is perpetual necessity of explaining what we mean by the title, the cognomen, under which or by which we wish our paper and work to be known. A little reflection should convince any one that this charge is not true. Anarchism is a negation, rather than an affirmation. It means absence of rule, or of rulers, leaving it to be inferred what the Anarchist would substitute for such rule; that is, whether he would have autarchy-self-rule-or simply

chaos "in first packages."

Lucifer, on the contrary, has a well-defined affirmative meaning. Its place in astronomic science is well-known to all people of culture. Only the grossly ignorant, or those led blindfold by religious bigots, believe that Lucifer means Satan, the second great character, if not the chief hero, in the Christian's theologic scheme. But even with this latter interpretation the name Lucifer is by no means one to be ashaned of. In proof of this statement, hear what a Christian clergyman, Reverend Thomas B. Gregory of this city, a leading space writer on the "Chicago American," has to say of the character of the orthodox Prince of Devils. Last week in Jackson Park, this city, a man committed suicide under circumstances that led to the conviction that the cause of the rash act was the reading of Marie Corelli's novel entitled "The Sorrows of Satan." Here is part of Rev. Gregory's comment upon this man's sad ending:

"I know nothing of Corelli's Satan, but I make bold to say that no man was ever induced to give up the battle by reading

of Milron's Satan. "Satan, as reported by Milton, had sorrows such as never fell to the lot of any other being, but he never showed the white

"No human being was ever induced to commit suicide from reading of the character of Milton's Satan. Of that you may be certain, absolutely certain.

It is a character to inspire rather than to depress; a character which fills one with resolution, and not despair; a character the study of which makes one want to live rather than die.

"Milton's Satan never contemplated suicide. Never! When the battle went the fiercest against him he simply gritted his teeth, knitted his brows and resolved the harder to win.
"Such is the character of Satan as Milton reports him—a

character sublime in its self-reliance and hopefulness, in its versatility of resource, in its unconquerable courage.

"Get acquainted with Milton's Satan, young men, young women, and whatever 'blues' you may have will disappear like a puff of smoke in the wind, and you will find yourselves ready to do and to dare anything."

When Bro. Kerr puts Lucifer's editor in the category of "minds of the second order" such as "Milton and Schiller," who, as he says, "thought liberty was everything," I am forced to the conclusion that he has not been a very careful reader of what has appeared in our columns, and also in the pages of the Light-Bearer Library, and of Our New Humanity, during the last decade or two of years. If he had read these he would have known that whatever may be the teaching of Tolstoi, Ibsen and others, Harman marches under the triune banner of "Freedom, Love, Wisdom," which trinity is substantially the same as that of Capt. R. C. Adams, namely, "Liberty, Learning, Love," which trinity receives the warm endorsement of Friend Kerr.

HEREDITY AND ARTIFICIAL SELECTION.

When we are told by our British Columbian correspondent that "Weissmann sweeps away the theory of prenatal influence," adding that "we can only hand on what we have ourselves inherited," I am forcibly reminded of the Irishman who, finding his new shoes two or three sizes too small for his feet,

wisely concluded that he "would have to wear them a few days before he could get them on!" According to Kerr and Weissmann it would be forever impossible to improve mankind by introducing new racial traits, since every such improvement must be old before it can be introduced!

In conclusion for this time, I must enter a mild protest, also, against the charge that I would supersede "natural selection" by substituting "artificial selection." I recognize that all selection must be natural, since nature includes all that there is, and that there ever can be, but I would supplement what we call the blind or unconscious natural attractions by intelligently conscious selection. My doctrine in regard to heredity and prenatal influence is substantially the same as that of Darwin, Stinson Jarvis and others who teach that the "ascent of life is the ascent of ideals." That the desire, the imaged features or quality in the mind of the parent, especially of the mother, becomes the incarnated feature or trait in the next generation.

M. HARMAN.

Ruminations.

M. Abbott Brigham, in writing of the Craddock case, in the "Boston Traveler," uses the following language:

"I have but little sympathy with a certain class of so-called reformers who persist in trying to inject the essence of decency into words that by common use have become vulgar-relegated to the bar room and brothel-obscene. The discussion of all questions, of whatsoever kind, in proper language, is right and necessary."

While Mr. Brigham rightly protests against the imprisonment of Ida C. Craddock, he does so on what I consider to be wrong grounds. The consistent defender of free speech has no right to establish arbitrary standards of propriety, and to consent to the persecution of those who fail to conform to his view of what is "proper." The "so-called reformers" who have shared the conviction of Ezra Heywood that the habitual use of foreign phrases and circumlocutions in connection with sex places a barrier in the way of clean and natural thinking, include many of the most earnest and intelligent workers in the paths of sex reform. And I quite agree with them. Every concession to prudery is a confession of lingering belief that there is "obscenity" in the thought of sex. A word does not become vulgar, simply from being used by vulgar people. Nobody thinks of eliminating the words "drink," "whiskey," "cards," "dance," and "smoke," from polite usage, because they are heard with great frequency in "the bar-room and brothel." If there is just one plain English word to express an idea, it is ridiculous to avoid its use, merely because it is frequently on the lips of those who take a perverted view of the matter in question. Nor is it done in any department, save that of sex, although degraded persons hold low and disgusting ideas on many other subjects. This has nothing to do with slang, which is the substitution of a corrupted phrase or unnecessary neologism for clear and straightforward language.

To me, the famous "Mother letter" in "The Word" was as fit for publication as anything ever written on the sex question. And I have found among those "so-called reformers," who believe in writing or speaking of sex matters as simply and plainly as of matters of dress or digestion, fully as much genuine refinement and as high sex ideals as among any other persons whatever. Even were the fact otherwise, there is no essential criminality in poor taste, and we shall never purify the minds of individuals by a mere revision of their vocabulary. .

The date of the Waisbrooker and Penhallow trials is not yet certain; but it will be during the month of July. There is but little danger of conviction in the Penhallow case, which is one of the most dishonest examples of petty persecution on record, and which was mainly intended as a pretext for stealing our postoffice. Nor is it at all likely that Lois Waisbrooker can be convicted in a fair trial. But both cases will be sharply contested; and the help of all friends of liberty will be necessary to defeat

what is needed. Do not forget that Oliver A. Verity, Home, Wash, is treasurer of the defence fund, and that delays are dangerous.

Now that the Free Speech League is fairly launched, it should receive the immediate and energetic support of every reader of Lucifer. The least that can be done is to become a member at once. The membership ought to run up into the hundreds, during the next few weeks. This is no time for idleness. No other issue can compare in importance with that of securing freedom of expression. All who do not wish to see the United States completely Russianized are called upon to act without delay. It is too late for indifference. The enemies of free speech are well organized, and allow nothing to come between them and their object. If the professed friends of liberty are sluggish and inactive, we may as well abandon the hope of human progress until many evil years have passed over the race. The Free Speech League offers an opportunity to put our efforts where they will do the most good. It should claim the adherence of every individual who wishes well to his country or to humanity.

As I am preparing a work on Comstockism, I should be pleased to receive any books, pamphlets, circulars, newspaper clippings or other printed matter or written information bearing on the subject, which any reader of Lucifer may be able to JAMES F. MORTON, JR.

Defense Fund.

For Lois Waisbrooker and Mattie D. Penhallow, Home, Wash. Amount previously reported, \$124.03; E. W., Ohio, \$5; L. L. L., Mich., \$1; M. G., Mass., \$1; R. S., Ills., \$1; J. C. B., Ills , 50 cents; Wm E. F., 25 cents. Total to June 3, \$132.78. OLIVER A. VERITY, Treas., Home, Washington.

The Free Speech League will give a dinner to Ida C. Craddock on her release from Blackwell's Island, to which prison she was sent for circulating her books. We have not been informed as to the date, but it will probably be some time in the week ending June 21. Our readers residing in New York and vicinity who desire to attend, should write to E. C. Walker, 243 W. 143 St., for particulars.

The National Press-Writers Association now has an organ of its own, "The Boston Press Writer," edited by A. C. Armstrong, 17 Leroy St., Dorchester, Mass. We wish it success. But why a local name for the mouthpiece of a national organization?

VARIOUS VOICES.

Martin Nortvedt, Laurium, Mich.:-For the enclosed 25 cents please send me one dozen copies of "Facts Worth Know-I am glad that the editor is improving, and hope that he will continue to improve and will be with us for many years to come

W. R. J., Hanover, Kansas:-For the enclosed \$1 please let Lucifer pay me weekly visits for another year and send me the "Unwomanly Woman," etc. My subscription expired last week. I enjoy Lucifer very much and cannot afford to miss a

Elizabeth Breese, Talent, Ore .: - I send you \$1 for good old Lucifer and your Special Offer No. 4. I have read all those pamphlets, but I need them to help show the light to my friends. I hope Father Moses is better. I wish he could take a trip to Oregon. I would give him a comfortable home while here.

W. H. A., Carlisle, Pa .: - I should like very much to secure a copy of "A Cityless and Countryless World" by H. Olerich, and recently advertised for sale by you. If you no longer have it in stock, any assistance you may be able to give me in tracing a copy will be greatly appreciated.

[In reply to this and many similar requests. we will say

the Comstock plotters. The defence fund still falls far short of that the author has his stock of this book stored at Hawarden, lows, his old home, and is away from that place and sunable to have any one else attend to shipping them. S must console ourselves with the thought-as did the Irish whose tin tea-kettle was at the bottom of the sea-that they're safe, and we know where they are, but we can't get at them!]

> Leroy Cumming, San Diego, Cal :- Find enclosed money order for \$1.50. Please credit me with \$1 on subscription to Lucifer and send me "The Blue Laws of Connecticut" and "Personal Rights and Sexual Wrongs." There are many books in your list that I want and intend to get as my means will allow. The suggestion is advanced for consideration that if the eastern climate is too rigorous for the editor's health, he could find in Southern California a sunny refuge from which to issue Lucifer, with several friends to welcome him and the co-editor on arrival

> Lucifer is like the morning star shining into the fog-bank of ignorance. And the worst feature of the situation is the mass of wilful ignorance. The majority refuses even to investigate a proposition for their betterment. Nine women out of ten would gladly scald you with hot dish water as a punishment for your "immorality" in advocating their freedom. To mingle with such dunderpates is enough to make a cynic of one. Whoever maintains that majority rule is the best form of social arrangement must be content to wander forever with the long-eared thistle-eaters.

> Is Benj. Tucker publishing a paper at present? If so, will you please give me his address?

> Can you furnish me with an English translation of John Most's "Die Gottespest?" If so, at what price?

> [Mr. Tucker is not publishing "Liberty," at present; but I do not understand that he has definitely abandoned its publication. His address is Box 1312 New York.

> If "Die Gottespest" is published in English we are not aware of the fact.]

> H. C. Roberts, Bennington, Kansas:-Bnclosed find \$1 to extend my subscription to Lucifer another year. I like the style in which Lucifer is conducted, in that both sides have an impartial hearing, for in this way only can the good and the bad of a question be brought out.

Eversince Kate Austin wrote her finely sympathetic, beautiful and characteristically womanly article, "Who Are the Fallen?" I have desired to thank her for her bold and progressive attitude on this important question. And I am convinced that if all independent and right thinking people would join in her just and humane demands it would greatly ameliorate the condition of a large clase of our sisters who are simply forced into their unhappy position by our false and very "Christian" society. I am aware that an erroneous idea is prevalent that the so-called fallen women are inherently vile and unspeakably depraved and that they do not desire reformation but desire simply to be let alone, while the fact is they are in the relentless grasp of social environment from which they can no more release themselves than can the victims of the governmental institution of Blackwell's Island, the hirelings of which institution have so recently outraged the personal liberties of one of the fairest, most loving and lovable women amongst all the millions of beautiful Amerioan womanhood. That very mild-mannered and docile policeman of whom Voltairine de Cleyre speaks in her rejoinder to Kate Austin, was, if I may be allowed the use of the vernacular, simply "onto his job." The policemen know full well that if justice prevailed their sinecure positions, would disappear in the twinkling of an eye. Hence it is necessary for the police to protect and carefully foster all the evils and vices which the dear people are so diligently taught makes government so necessary to their well-being.

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